

European Summer Universities (1993-2025): more than thirty years of sharing

Évelyne Barbin

Special PL

University of Nantes, France

1993 was the year of the first ESU in Montpellier (France). There were 244 participants in Montpellier, coming from France and 29 other countries. It was organized by the French inter-IREM Committee "Epistemology and History of Mathematics," and it was the fifth French Summer University after Le Mans (1984), Toulouse (1986), La Rochelle (1988), Lille (1990). ESU meetings are marked in three distinct ways: they are open to secondary teachers, they welcome interdisciplinarity, and they have three official languages: English, French, and the language of the ESU host country. After 1993, ESU meetings were organized in Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, Czech Republic, Austria, Denmark, Norway and Italy, thanks to colleagues who accepted to be organizers. In my talk, I will come back to all the meetings and to their success along the 30 years of ESU.



Évelyne Barbin obtained a thesis in theoretical computer science and a habilitation thesis in history of mathematics. Since 2002, she is full professor of epistemology and history of sciences at the University of Nantes (France) and, since 2014, professor emeritus. She is member of the Laboratory LMJL and the group "History of mathematics and teaching" of the IREM (Institute for Research on Mathematics Education) of Nantes. Her research concerns three fields: history of mathematics, history of mathematics teaching; relations between history and teaching of mathematics. She worked on epistemology and history of mathematics in the IREM institutes since 1975.

She co-organized 20 colloquia, 8 summer universities and the first European Summer University (ESU) "Epistemology and History in Mathematics Education" in 1993. She was co-chair of nine ESU from 1996 to 2024. Since 1980, she is a member of the "International Study Group on the Relations between History and Pedagogy of Mathematics" (HPM). She was chair of HPM from 2008 to 2012 and HPM-2012 in Daejeon (South Korea).